
Confessions of the Czarina by Paul Vassili

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Miss Freeman went to Germany to become governess in a German family. This was in January, 1914. She was received with much friendliness and consideration. When the war broke out the family still treated her with the greatest kindness and did all they could to protect her, and in every way assisted her in leaving the country, which she was able to do in October, 1914.

The way in which she describes the response of the German people when war actually came is very vivid. She places above all else the hatred of everything English as the real cause of the war. The goal ever before them was the destruction of England. In the early days of the war the people were urged to take care of the Americans. The Germans feared for the outcome if we united with England.

Public opinion was absolutely moulded by the newspapers and the newspapers were inspired from head-quarters. Every one went mad with joy because they were going to have war, but once war was declared they were filled with a desire to blame some one else for causing it.

The book gives us a splendid insight into a typical German family, with all its hospitality and kindness, yet shows the power and the influence of the German war lords and the German war spirit. Altogether the volume may be recommended as giving one of the most accurate descriptions yet written of the real Germany during the early weeks of the war. C. E. S.

Confessions of the Czarina. By COUNT PAUL VASSILI. Harper and Brothers, Publishers, New York and London, 1918. 298 pages.

Count Vassili knew the Czarina personally and gives a vivid account of the life of the Empress of all the Russias from the time she came to the throne, a bride, until she was sent into Siberian exile. The author hopes in this way to give us a better understanding of the social conditions which caused the Russian Revolution. The Czarina was a German princess and neglected no opportunity to show sympathy for her native land. She took little or no interest in Russian politics until after the arrival of the Czarevitch.

The manner in which Rasputin worked upon the emotions of the Czarina and her son is described at great length.

However, Count Vassili begs his readers to keep always in mind the fact "that the Consort of Nicholas II was not a normal

woman; that madness was hereditary in the Hesse-Darmstadt family to which she belonged, twenty-two members of which had, during the last hundred years or so, been confined in lunatic asylums; that consequently a different standard of criticism must be applied to Alexandra Feodorowna than to an ordinary person in full possession of all her intellectual faculties."

The Czarina doubtless lived a most unhappy life but she was so tactless that she estranged those who would have befriended her. She kept up continuous, secret communications with her cousin, Kaiser Wilhelm II and was very anxious to have Russia make a separate peace with Germany. C. E. S.

Russia in Upheaval. By EDWARD ALSWORTH ROSS, Ph.D., LL.D.
New York, The Century Company, 1918. 354 pages.

The aim of the author is to show the social changes which have taken place in Russia up to the close of 1917. In order to do this successfully, a careful review is made of the early Russian customs and practices. The chapters dealing with the psychology of the peasant, his soil hunger and the land question, and a discussion of the roots of the revolution are good. Dr. Ross draws a new picture of the part woman has played in the great upheaval of Russia. The question of labor and capital as interpreted by the Sovyet is discussed at great length. The author also shows how the Orthodox Church has been affected by the Revolution.

As a solution for the Russian problem, the author suggests a great federated state, "The United States of Russia," using our own country as a model. The break-up of the great Empire into many independent states would mean continual strife among them so that Russians would "look back with regret on the vanished peace of the Czar!"

In the closing chapter the author points out how costly is social revolution, costly in life, in good-will, and in organization.

C. E. S.

The Lost Fruits of Waterloo. By JOHN SPENCER BASSETT. New York, The Macmillan Company, 1918. 289 pages.

One hundred years ago the world rejoiced at the overthrow of a great military autocrat. It was expected that universal peace would immediately follow. But the nations had forgotten that it was a principle and not merely a man that they had been contending against. That principle has lived on and has shown it-